



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE TASK FORCE INVESTIGATION LEADS TO INDICTMENT OF 26 *Brokers, others alleged to have coached, helped Indonesians circumvent immigration law*

ALEXANDRIA, Va.-- United States Attorney Paul J. McNulty of the Eastern District of Virginia and Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia today announced the filing of charges against 26 defendants for asylum fraud, labor certification fraud, identification document fraud and conspiracy.

"Fraudulent documents present risks - the risk that criminals will use those documents to further criminal schemes and the risk to our national security that comes with not knowing the true identity of thousands of individuals working and traveling in this country," said Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia. "Benefit fraud also undermines the integrity of the entire immigration system by clogging the process up with undeserving claims while bona fide applicants wait for adjudication of their claims. This case, and the many similar fraud cases ICE investigates, serves to protect our national security and help facilitate consideration of the claims of eligible applicants."

The charges announced today are the result of a nearly two-year long investigation into the illegal practices of Indonesian immigration brokers and consultants operating in Northern Virginia and Maryland. Four principal brokerages were investigated: the Chinese Indonesian American Society, operated by defendant Hans Gouw and located in Fairfax Station, Va.; Asian American Placement Services, operated by defendants Megawaty Gandasaputra and Michael Wright, located in Springfield, Va.; Kumala Nusantara, operated by defendant Nany Kumala and located in Burke, Va.; and Chinese Indonesian Pribumi Community Service, operated by defendant Silvy Karageorge and located in Manassas, Va.

As the affidavit filed in support of these charges details, the government alleges that the owners, employees and associates of these brokerages knowingly defrauded the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia from at least late-1999 through the present. In particular, the government's investigation --led by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-- revealed that the defendants aided thousands of Indonesian immigrants living throughout the United States to apply by fraud for a wide variety of government benefits

through alien labor certification, Virginia driver's licenses and identification cards, United States passports, and Social Security cards.

The government's affidavit alleges that the principal frauds pursued by the defendants were asylum fraud, labor certification fraud and identification document fraud. With regard to asylum, the government's investigation revealed that several of the defendants were routinely preparing fraudulent asylum applications for Indonesian clients in return for a fee of \$2,000 or more. These applications typically contained false claims that the applicant had been raped, sexually assaulted, beaten or robbed by Muslims in Indonesia on account of the applicant's Chinese ethnicity or adherence to Christianity. Many of these claims were stock accounts repeated with little variation from application to application. The defendants often supported these claims with counterfeit Indonesian documents, such as birth certificates, baptismal certificates and police reports.

The investigation also revealed that these same defendants coached their clients to exploit the perceived sympathies of the asylum officers and immigration judges assigned to consider the applications. For example, the defendants counseled married immigrants to feature the wife as the lead applicant because the defendants believed asylum officers and immigration judges were more sympathetic to women and less likely to question them aggressively. Applicants were told to cry, plead and avoid positive references to Indonesia. The defendants also supplied their immigrant clients with Indonesian interpreters who would enhance and correct the testimony clients gave asylum officers during asylum interviews.

With regard to identification document fraud, the government alleges that several of the defendants routinely aided Indonesian clients to obtain Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) driver's licenses, learner's permits and identification cards by fraud. In particular, the government found that the defendants prepared fraudulent DMV residency certifications (DMV form DL51) for nearly 1,900 Indonesian immigrants. The immigrants used these residency certifications to prove to the DMV that they lived at specific addresses in Northern Virginia when the applicants lived elsewhere.

With regard to labor certification fraud, the government alleges that three of the defendants prepared fraudulent applications for labor certification on behalf of Indonesian immigrants seeking to remain in the United States. These applications claimed that the defendants intended to hire the immigrants for jobs no U.S. workers were willing or qualified to take. Had the applications been approved, the immigrants in question would have been issued a green card and allowed to work and remain in the United States legally. The government, however, found that much of the information in the applications was false, including the existence of the job, the qualifications of the immigrant and the immigrant's intended U.S. address.

The investigation was conducted by a task force of federal and state law enforcement agencies. In addition to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the task force included the Fairfax County Police Department, the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service, the Department of Labor, the IRS, the Social Security Administration, the Virginia DMV, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Department of Homeland Security's Secret Service, and the FBI.

Investigative support was provided by the DHS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of Refugee, Asylum and International Operations; the Department of Justice Executive Office of

Immigration Review, the Virginia Employment Commission, and the Department of Labor's Employment Training Commission.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John Morton, Michael Rich, Rebeca Bellows, and David Laufman along with Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Beth Gibson.

The defendants and the specific charges lodged against them are:

Hans Gouw, 53, of Fairfax, Va., (asylum fraud)
Isnayanti Gouw, 35, of Fairfax (asylum fraud)
Jenny Gandasaputra, 51, of Fairfax (asylum fraud)
Herman Tanudjaja, 59, of Fairfax (conspiracy to commit identification document fraud)
Johnson Aliffin, 33, of Springfield, Va. (conspiracy to commit asylum fraud)
Ratna Hartanto, 38, of Alexandria (asylum fraud)
Rosita Setyawati, 46, of Philadelphia (asylum fraud)
Brigitta Parera, 35, of Vienna, Va. (asylum fraud)
Willy Irsan, 33, of Centreville, Va. (asylum fraud)
Achnita Supomo, 37, of Centreville (asylum fraud)
Lestari Nugroho, 27, of Portland, Ore. (asylum fraud)
Raymond Marschall, 26, of Fairfax (conspiracy to commit identification document fraud)
Hanny Kembuan, 46, of Glendale, Calif. (asylum fraud)
Herlina Suherman, 28, of East Lansing, Mich. (asylum fraud)
Surya Halim 33, of Centreville (asylum fraud)
Danny Susanto, 34, of Fairfax (conspiracy to commit asylum fraud)
Henry Lee, 29, address unknown (conspiracy to commit asylum fraud)
Albert Warong, 75, of Gaithersburg, Md. (conspiracy to commit identification document fraud)
Sari Tanudjaya, 48, of Gaithersburg (conspiracy to commit identification document fraud)
Johannis Ticoalu, 57, Alexandria (conspiracy to commit identification document fraud)
Megawaty Gandasaputra, 46, of Fairfax (asylum fraud)
Michael Wright, 43, of Fairfax (conspiracy to commit labor certification fraud)
Irawan Muljadi, 55, address unknown (conspiracy to commit identification document fraud)
Nany Kumala, 49, of Burke, Va. (identification document fraud)
Silvy Karageorge, 47, of Manassas, Va. (asylum fraud) and
Joandi Gani, 19, of Fairfax (labor certification fraud).

Twenty-three of the defendants are citizens of Indonesia, two are United States citizens, and one is believed to be a citizen of Australia of Indonesian descent. The 23 Indonesian citizens have the following U.S. immigration status: three are Lawful Permanent Residents, 15 have been granted asylum, and five have no legal status.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.